

## Draft Action Plan Outline

6.8.09

*“Energy Efficient Buildings can be the Transition Fuel for Bridging to the Future”*

### 1. Advocacy Initiatives

#### Short-term Initiatives

##### 1.1. Work with state and federal legislative delegations to:

- 1.1.1. Ensure consistent and permanent tax credits for energy conservation upgrades to residential and business properties.
- 1.1.2. Support current efforts to increase energy efficiency and resource conservation standards in state building codes.
- 1.1.3. Support state statutes allowing grey water reuse for non-potable uses.
- 1.1.4. Support enabling legislation to allow local communities to provide a full range of green building incentives.

##### 1.2. Form strong partnerships with local green building organizations such as the Triad Green Building Council and the Piedmont Triad NC Chapter of the US Green Building Council, to:

- 1.2.1. Share educational information through joint web links.
- 1.2.2. Conduct frequent joint discussions about legislative and policy actions needed.
- 1.2.3. Jointly sponsor educational sessions and awards programs.

##### 1.3. Engage Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas in continuous discussions about local energy usage and energy conservation programs for both residential and commercial buildings.

- 1.3.1. Invite Duke Energy and PNG to participate in CSC meetings and committees.
- 1.3.2. Formalize energy usage information sharing between the City and energy supplier companies.
- 1.3.3. Work with Duke Energy and PNG to align weatherization and energy efficiency programs with other community initiatives.

## **2. Education**

### **Short-term Initiatives**

- 2.1. Utilize the City's communications systems, including website, Channel 13, water bills, neighborhood planning and inspections staff contacts, etc. to educate and promote available energy conservation programs such as those from the NC State Energy Office, State HHS Weatherization Program, Duke Energy, and Piedmont Natural Gas.**
- 2.2. Develop energy conservation and green building programming to run on Channel 13 and the City's website:**
  - 2.2.1. Highlight City of Greensboro leadership in energy conservation activities and results, such as energy performance contracts, green cleaning and property maintenance practices, energy saving operating policies, etc.**
  - 2.2.2. Create a recognizable barometer of the City's progress in achieving GHG goals.**
- 2.3. Create an ongoing organizational structure to facilitate green jobs creation, training and placement: (This strategy under development)**
  - 2.3.1. Include higher education, community college, workforce development, Guilford County Schools, Greensboro Partnership, City and county human resources, etc.**
- 2.4. Promote local green building successes through:**
  - 2.4.1. Awards programs with other local sustainability partners.**
  - 2.4.2. Lunch and learn sessions with local colleges and universities.**
  - 2.4.3. Active support of local green building design competitions.**
  - 2.4.4. Provide links to project registries of certified green building renovations and constructions, including residential, commercial, industrial and institutional and governmental projects.**
  - 2.4.5. Promotion of green building programs through the Greensboro Partnership, other local economic development agencies, and the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress.**
- 2.5. Work with the Triad Green Building Council and Piedmont Triad NC Chapter of the US Green Building Council to ensure that educational sessions are held for local code inspectors and contractors to share issues about green building standards and challenges.**

### **Mid-term Initiatives**

- 2.6. Work with local colleges to create mobile exhibits that demonstrate simple energy conservation techniques and can be used at neighborhood meetings and other community functions.**

- 2.7. Create educational programming on the energy conservation and cost savings potential of lower water usage.
- 2.8. Work with Preservation Greensboro, Inc. and other preservation interests to promote energy efficient practices for older and historic buildings:
  - 2.8.1. Develop educational information about utilization of energy tax credits for historic building upgrades.
  - 2.8.2. Undertake and publicize demonstration projects for energy efficient upgrades on historic buildings.
- 2.9. Research ability to link business license fees to energy usage and energy audits.
- 2.10. Work with Water Resources Department to report on high water usage locations through water billing

### *Long-term Initiatives*

- 2.11. Obtain funding and implement a demonstration neighborhood water conservation program in at least two model neighborhoods:
  - 2.11.1. Education about water-wise lawn and planting systems
  - 2.11.2. Subsidize cost of water saving equipment (rain barrels, bio-swales, low flow fixtures and appliances) and replacement of paving and plant materials.
  - 2.11.3. Analyze and report on annual water usage savings compared with typical neighborhoods.

## **3. Policy Actions**

### *Short-term Initiatives*

- 3.1. **Recommend that City Council adopt a green building certification standard for all new construction and substantial renovations of city facilities.**
- 3.2. **Implement energy audit and energy upgrade programs that are available to all property owners.**
  - 3.2.1. **Coordinate and monitor the delivery of weatherization assistance funding to low and moderate income home owners and renters.**
  - 3.2.2. **Implement a revolving loan fund program for energy audits and upgrades to non-residential property owners.**
- 3.3. **Provide links to directories of certified green building and service firms, such as those maintained by the Triad Green Building Council to make this information readily available to the community.**

- 3.4. **Partner with the Greensboro Housing Coalition and other Healthy Homes Greensboro collaborators to integrate home energy measures into the Healthy Homes Initiative.**
  - 3.4.1. **Focus outreach on elderly, poor and marginalized populations.**
  - 3.4.2. **Expand grant resources for healthy-green repairs (weatherization-ventilation-indoor air quality, Lead Safe Work Practices, Integrated Pest Management, addressing moisture intrusion)**
  - 3.4.3. **Evaluate impact on health and energy conservation.**
- 3.5. **Undertake a review of the Minimum Housing Code to identify current provisions for energy efficiency standards and any needed revisions to match current building code and standard practices.**

*Mid-term Initiatives*

- 3.6. Promote green building through the City's Land Development Ordinance and building permit process.
  - 3.6.1. Conduct a sustainability audit of the Land Development Ordinance (LDO) to identify any impediments to green building.
  - 3.6.2. Recommend a permit fee rebate program and other development incentives for certified green construction and substantial renovation.
  - 3.6.3. Recommend expedited processing for all private construction of certified green buildings.
- 3.7. Work with the Rental Unit Certificate of Occupancy (RUCO) Board to identify opportunities for promotion of energy conservation applications as a part of the RUCO policy and inspection process.
  - 3.7.1. Identify the cost/benefit aspects of any revisions proposed to the Minimum Housing Code to minimize impact on housing affordability and provide financial incentives where necessary.